From: steve cooley
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/9/01 4:54pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I think this is a completely backwards way to settle Microsoft's wrongdoings. I think the only way to fairly punish them is to monitarily penalize them. Take the dollar value of all the hardware and software they proposed to "donate" to schools, and multiply it by 1.25 for their arrogance in even trying to fool the court into thinking these kinds of tactics would suffice. Certainly it costs them money to produce software, but it's nothing in comparison to the damage they've done, and ultimately, it does not cost them hundreds of dollars per-copy of their operating system. Allowing Microsoft to donate software and hardware to needy schools is in itself an unfair business practice in context of the charges being brought against them. What little market share Apple has reasonable access to anymore would be unfairly competed with by an offer to free materials by Microsoft.

I urge you to reject this settlement offer and to focus on what will make an obvious impact to the punishing of Microsoft: hard cash. Needy schools should be the benefactor of this settlement. This much I totally agree with, but at least give the schools the opportunity to decide which platform they prefer for themselves..